

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for controlling a manufacturing system, the method
2 comprising:
3 intercepting a call requesting presentation of a standard user interface;
4 collecting data that defines how to modify the user interface; and
5 facilitating presentation of a modified user interface that has been modified in
6 relation to the collected data.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a call comprises
2 intercepting a call to a printer user interface module.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting data comprises collecting data
2 from a manufacturer control system.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein collecting data from a manufacturer
2 control system comprises calling the manufacturer control system.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein calling the manufacturer control system
2 comprises providing a set of functions to the manufacturer control system that the
3 control system can use to define features that are to be added to the standard user
4 interface.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein facilitating presentation of a modified
2 user interface comprises receiving data that identifies at least one of data and code that
3 is pertinent to supporting the modified user interface.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein facilitating presentation of a modified
2 user interface comprises providing the received data to a printer user interface module.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein providing the received data comprises
2 calling the printer user interface module to provide a set of functions to the printer user
3 interface module that identify at least one of data and code that can be used to present
4 the modified user interface to the user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein facilitating presentation of a modified
2 user interface comprises modifying the standard user interface by at least one of adding
3 control features to the standard user interface that enable the user to control a print
4 mechanism in a specialized manner, adding control features to the standard user
5 interface that enable the user to control operation other system equipment, and
6 modifying the appearance of the standard user interface.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a selection entered
2 by a user with the modified user interface and controlling system equipment in view of
3 the entered selection.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein controlling system equipment
2 comprises controlling equipment other than a print mechanism with the modified user
3 interface.

1 12. A control system for controlling a manufacturing system, the control
2 system comprising:

3 means for intercepting a call requesting display of a standard user interface;

4 means for collecting data that can be used to modify the standard user interface;

5 and

6 means for generating a modified user interface.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for collecting data comprise
2 means for providing a set of functions that can be used to define features that are to be
3 modified or added to the standard user interface.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for collecting data comprise
2 means for receiving pointers to at least one of data and code that is pertinent to
3 modifying the standard user interface.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for collecting data comprise
2 means for providing the collected data to a printer user interface module.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for providing the collected
2 data comprise means for providing a set of functions that identify at least one of data
3 and code that can be used to modify the standard user interface.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the means for providing a set of
2 functions comprise means for providing a set of functions that identify the location of at
3 least one of data and code that can be used to dynamically modify the standard user
4 interface.

1 18. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for generating a modified
2 user interface comprise means for at least one of adding control features to the standard
3 user interface that enable the user to control a print mechanism in a specialized manner,
4 adding control features to the standard user interface that enable the user to control
5 operation other system equipment, and modifying the appearance of the standard user
6 interface.

1 19. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for receiving a
2 selection entered by a user with the modified user interface and means for controlling
3 system equipment in view of the entered selection.

1 20. A control system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system
2 comprising:
3 logic configured to intercept a calls made by a printer driver requesting display
4 of a standard user interface;
5 logic configured to request data that can be used to modify the standard user
6 interface;
7 logic configured to provide the requested data to a printer user interface module;
8 and
9 logic configured to generate a modified user interface using the provided data.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to request data
2 comprises logic configured to provide a set of functions that can be used to define
3 features that are to be modified or added to the standard user interface.

1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to request data
2 comprises logic configured to request pointers that identify at least one of data and code
3 that is pertinent to modifying the standard user interface.

1 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to provide the
2 requested data comprises logic configured to provide a set of functions that identify at
3 least one of data and code that can be used to modify the standard user interface.

1 24. The system of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to provide the
2 requested data comprises logic configured to provide pointers that identify the location
3 of at least one of data and code that can be used to dynamically modify the standard user
4 interface.

1 25. The system of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to generate a
2 modified user interface comprise logic configured to at least one of add control features
3 to the standard user interface that enable the user to control a print mechanism in a
4 specialized manner, add control features to the standard user interface that enable the
5 user to control operation other system equipment, and modify the appearance of the
6 standard user interface.

1 26. The system of claim 20, further comprising logic configured to receive a
2 selection entered by a user with the modified user interface and logic configured to
3 control system equipment in view of the entered selection.

1 27. A user interface modification system, comprising:
2 a specialty printing application manager that is configured to intercept a calls
3 made by a printer driver requesting display of a standard user interface and to request
4 data that can be used to modify a standard user interface; and
5 a manufacturer control system that is configured to provide data that can be used
6 to modify the standard user interface.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the specialty printing application
2 manager is configured to provide a set of functions to the manufacturer control system
3 that can be used to define features that are to be modified or added to the standard user
4 interface.

1 29. The system of claim 27, wherein the specialty printing application
2 manager is further configured to provide the requested data to a printer user interface
3 module.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the specialty printing application
2 manager is configured to provide a set of functions to the printer user interface module
3 that identify at least one of data and code that can be used to modify the standard user
4 interface.

1 31. The system of claim 27, wherein the manufacturer control system is
2 configured to provide pointers to the specialty printing application manager that identify
3 at least one of data and code that is pertinent to modifying the standard user interface.

1 32. A specialty printing application manager stored on a computer-readable
2 medium, the manager comprising:
3 logic configured to intercept a calls made by a printer driver to a printer user
4 interface module;
5 logic configured to request data that can be used to modify the standard user
6 interface;
7 logic configured to receive the requested data; and
8 logic configured to provide the received data to a printer user interface module
9 such that the printer user interface module can modify the standard user interface to
10 present a modified user interface to a user.

1 33. The manager of claim 32, wherein the logic configured to request data
2 comprises logic configured to provide a set of functions that can be used to define
3 features that are to be modified or added to the standard user interface.

1 34. The manager of claim 32, wherein the logic configured to provide the
2 received data comprises logic configured to provide a set of functions to the printer user
3 interface module that identify at least one of data and code that can be used to modify
4 the standard user interface.